



W.E.B. NV celebrates the completion of a new power plant with an informative exposition at the Renaissance Convention Center

On Wednesday evening, November 8, on the heels of ground breaking festivities at the W.E.B. (Water-en-Energiebedrijf Aruba) plant in Balashi, executives of W.E.B. N.V., and parliament members gathered at the Renaissance Convention Center to witness the “turning over” ceremony of the recently completed power plant to W.E.B. Director, Jossy Laclé. The management of W.E.B. N.V. took advantage of this event to allow the companies involved in the recent technological advances being made at the Balashi facility to provide informative “booths” in an exposition that allowed better understanding of the improvements at the power and water plant.

Both GE-Ionics and CUMAE, companies involved in the construction of a new water producing plant provided fascinating information about the future technology of water purification and alternative energy sources. CUMAE even offered a demonstration of a mini-car that is fueled simply by water, a technology that is being implemented by some European public transportation services.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the “keys” to the new three-engine power plant that was built by Wärtsilä Finland Oy, who also maintained an informative booth at the exposition. Mika Rapeli, Project Manager for Wärtsilä Finland Oy did the honors. Previous to the ceremony, a ten minute film depicting the completion of the project begun in August of 2005 and completed in August of this year conveyed what a massive undertaking was the construction of the power plant. Over 700 workers and eight construction companies participated in this project, which cost forty million florins (twenty-three million dollars U.S.)

The new plant will provide more fuel-efficient power production and less waste material, as explained by Plant Manager Rolando Rasmijn. The final bottom line of what will be saved can only be calculated after observing the amount of maintenance required by the three massive engines, which produce an additional twenty-four megawatts of power for the island.

During the turning over ceremony, Mr. Rapeli also honored key personnel responsible for the success of the project, which was completed on budget, and very nearly on schedule. Receiving beautifully laser etched glass sculptures and plaques from Wärtsilä Finland Oy were Jossy Lacle, John Hodgeson, of Project Bureau, Ing, project manager, Manuel Ruiz, project leader, and Leon Hamers of the Polytechnisch Ingenieurs Bureau (PIB) N.V. who were the overseers, engineers, and designers of the project.

During his address, Jossy Lacle offered thanks to the various companies involved, which included KPMG, Fichtner GmbH & Co, KG, consultants, PE-MAC. Local sub-contractors working on the project included JV Oduber, Croon Aruba, Jody Steel Construction, WATCO, Kelflo Engineering, Dorothal SFT & M, and ATCO. All of them worked under the direction of the principle contractor, Thiel Corporation, who donated to the charity Foundations Hende Muher den Dificultad and SOS Tele Ayudo, (Aruba Adult Hotline) in honor of the completion of the project along with Mr. Rapeli of Wärtsilä Finland Oy. Other foundations receiving donations that evening include Casa Cuna; honored by W.E.B. N.V. and Fundacion Drecha Cas with a check from Leon Hamers of PIB.

The Prime Minister of Aruba, Mr. Nelson Oduber, graced the gathering with a few words of congratulations for a job well done, and the evening ended with a celebration for a day of momentous events for Aruba’s power and water providers.